

# **News**

Macomb County  
Office of Public Affairs



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## **Macomb County departments earn Farm Bureau award**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. –Macomb County's Planning & Economic Development Department and Michigan State University Extension office were presented with the Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for 2006.

The Macomb County Farm Bureau recognized the departments for their work on the Macomb Agricultural Purchase of Development Rights Committee (MAPDRC), a farmland preservation organization.

The Planning department and MSU-E helped create the Macomb PDR Committee, which is the first multi-township committee to jointly tackle preservation and land use issues. They also helped secure \$286,000 in grants for Macomb PDR Committee and developed an educational program called "Tilling the Soil" that helps farmers create a business plans.

The Farm Bureau specifically cited the efforts of three Planning department employees: Associate Director Don Morandini, Associate Planner Justin Robinson and Grants Coordinator Maria Zardis. MSU-E employees mentioned include Director Marilyn Rudzinski, Hannah Stevens and Terri Gibbs.

The Macomb PDR Committee is a collaborative effort between Armada, Bruce, Lenox, Ray and Richmond townships that aims to preserve the county's agricultural industry by purchasing the development rights of land actively used for agriculture.

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